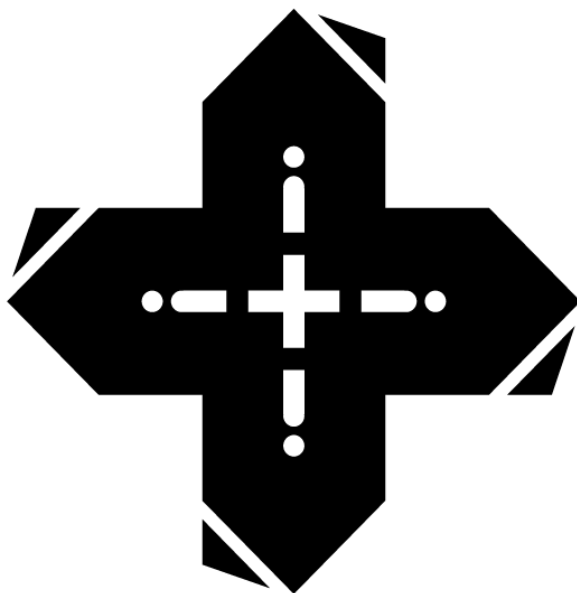


**CONNECTING CHRIST. CREATING COMMUNITY**



**HUNTERSVILLE**  
*Lutheran Church*

**12.06.20 | Season of Advent**





# Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for  
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Brick Row

Bible Class @ 8:45am | Worship @ 9:30am

Huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057 | pastor@huntersvillelc.com

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

## About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

## For Your Convenience

**Restrooms** are located through the doors at the rear of the building, to the right. Follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

## Service Participants

Rev. Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*  
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

## Service Notes | *The Season of Advent* |

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the church uses to remember the “coming” of Christ as the savior of the world.

## Today’s Theme | *The Forerunner Points* |

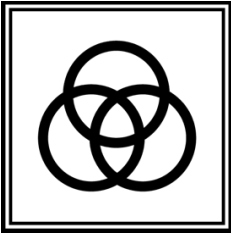
Since the fall into sin, God has been moving, promising, acting, and pointing to one thing—the salvation he would win through the coming Messiah. When John the Baptizer, the forerunner, arrived, he faithfully and humbly carried out his calling—he pointed people forward. But people weren’t satisfied with John or his message. They weren’t satisfied about what he was pointing to.

Can the same be said about us? Are we satisfied with what Christmas points us to—the Light that dispels the darkness of our sin? Or, would we be more satisfied if Christmas was only a little religious; a little more lights and gifts than the manger and worship? What do we want for Christmas?

## About Huntersville Lutheran

Huntersville Lutheran is supported by, and are members of, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada. Our mission is to show you to the authentic Jesus, build you up in his Word, and connect you to your community and neighbors in ways you have never been able to before. For find out more about us, visit our website: [huntersvillelc.com](http://huntersvillelc.com).





## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Normally, no hymn of praise is sung during Advent and Lent. This practice accentuates the solemn and penitential nature of these seasons. This Advent, the Gloria is replaced by the gathering rite for the season. At the heart of this gathering rite is thought of waiting. The season of Advent is marked by waiting in anticipation for the coming of God's Son in flesh and blood to be our Savior. It is in him we hope. It is for him we wait. It is to him we pray, "Come quickly, Lord."*

### Gathering Song

### *I Will Wait For You*



1 Lord, from the depths I call to you; Lord, hear me  
2 Lord, in your pres- ence who can stand, if you our



from on high and give at - ten - tion  
sins re - cord? But yet for - give - ness



to my voice when I for mer - cy cry.  
is with you, that we may fear you, Lord.

### Invocation

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

*Psalm 130:1*

**C** Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

*Psalm 130:2*

## Confession

**L** The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

**C** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin,  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do.  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## Sung Response

**L** Out of the depths I cry to you, in darkest places I will call;  
Incline your ear to me anew, and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were you to count my sinful ways, how could I stand before your throne?  
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze: I stand redeemed by grace alone.

**C** **Refrain:**



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your  
word, I will re - ly. I will wait for you, sure - ly  
wait for you, till my soul is sat - is - fied.

## Absolution

**L** If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

*Psalm 130:3*

**C** But with you there is forgiveness.

*Psalm 130:4*

**L** Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love;

**C** And with him is full redemption.

*Psalm 130:7*

**L** God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Sung Response

**L** So put your hope in God alone; take courage in his power to save—  
Completely and forever won by Christ emerging from the grave.

Now he has come to make a way, and God himself has paid the price,  
That all who trust in him today, find healing in his sacrifice.

**C** Refrain:



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; through the  
storm and through the night. I will wait for you, sure-ly  
wait for you, for your love is my de - light.



# THE WORD

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## Prayer of the Day

**L** Let us pray:

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## Children's Message

### First Reading | *Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11* |

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.



They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.”

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD;  
my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness  
and praise spring up before all nations.

## Psalm 71

**L** In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;

**C** Let me never be put to shame.

**L** Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;

**C** Turn your ear to me and save me.

**L** Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;

**C** For you are my rock and my fortress.

**L** Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,

**C** And to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

**L** Even when I am old and gray,

**C** Do not forsake me, O God,

**L** Till I declare your power to the next generation,

**C** Your might to all who are to come.

## Second Reading | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 |

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

## Lighting Rite<sup>1</sup>

*Please Stand.*

**L** We light two Advent candles remember Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**C** We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

**L** We hear John's call to repent. In our repentance, we cling to the one whom Isaiah says will cloth us in garments of salvation and array us in robes of his righteousness. In him we place our hope.

**C** We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

**L** Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come.

*The Congregation Sings:*

**C** O Come, our Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And deaths dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity, it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree. It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.*

## The Gospel

□ The Gospel, according to John, chapter one.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



□ The Gospel of the Lord.

■ Praise be to you, O Christ!

## Hymn of the Day | *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* |



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come  
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you  
3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in  
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,  
down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion  
deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed  
souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your  
Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all  
And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is  
And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me  
tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all  
near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can  
cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.  
love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!  
help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.  
thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.

## **Sermon | *Finding Satisfaction This Christmas* |**

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

### **Personal Sermon Notes**

## **Confession of Faith | *Nicene Creed* |**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

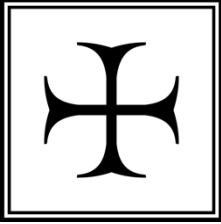
**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



# THANKSGIVING

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**Offering |** The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

**Take Action Cards |** In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**



# THE SACRAMENT

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*Huntersville Lutheran practices close communion, which means biblical conversation and confession with our church beforehand. It is our desire to share in the eternal blessings of this Sacrament according to the instructions that God himself gives. If you are new to Huntersville Lutheran, please know that many of those around you were at one time new, too. And, as you can see by their presence, this preliminary discussion has only brought us closer together to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the way he has prescribed. Contact our pastor at any time.*

## Introduction to the Lord's Supper

- L** Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper. *1 Corinthians 11:28*
- C** **I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*
- L** Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper. *1 Corinthians 11:29*
- C** **The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ.** *1 Corinthians 10:16*
- L** Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body.
- C** **Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.** *1 Corinthians 10:17*

## The Words of Institution

- L** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** **Amen.**

## Lamb of God | *Agnus Dei*<sup>2</sup> |

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

## Distribution

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<sup>2</sup> John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God (*Angus Dei*), the sacrifice for sins, once for all. We join countless Christians in singing these words before receiving the very thing in this Supper that these words promise, sins taken away through the blood of Jesus.



# BLESSING

## Lord's Blessing

- L** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24*

**C** Amen.

## Song of Departure | *How Firm A Foundation* |

*Printed on the Following Page*



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints  
 2 "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be  
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path -  
 5 "Through - out all their life - time my peo -

of the Lord, Is laid for your  
 not dis - mayed; For I am your  
 for re - pose I will not, I  
 way shall lie, My grace all - suf -  
 ple shall prove My sov' - reign, e -

faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What  
 God and will still give you aid; I'll  
 will not, de - sert to his foes. That  
 fi - cient shall be your sup - ply. The  
 ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love, And

more can he say than to you  
 strength - en you, help you, and cause  
 soul, though all hell should en - deav -  
 flames will not hurt you; I on -  
 then, when gray hair shall their tem -

he has said Who un - to the  
 you to stand, Up - held by my  
 or to shake, I'll nev - er, no  
 ly de - sign Your dress to con -  
 ples a - dorn, Like lambs they shall

Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!  
 sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 still on my shoul - ders be borne.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You |** You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning we pray that your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

**Want to Learn More? |** Aside from worship, one of the best way to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor ([pastor@huntersvillelc.com](mailto:pastor@huntersvillelc.com)).

**Weekly Bible Study |** Next week, we will continue our bible study on 1 Thessalonians called, “Chosen Rejects: Life and Hope in the Face of Persecution.” Over the course of a few weeks, we will walk through and find comfort for life in this turbulent world from Paul’s beautiful words to the Thessalonians. There will also be a special bible study for children!

**Advent Dinner and Devotion** | On Wednesdays, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30pm, we will meet for a time of dinner and devotion. It will take place at the church office (9820 Northcross Center Court Huntersville). We will have some food brought in and, after dinner, have a brief devotion. If you have not already, please take a moment to RSVP via the SignUp Genius. This will let us know how much food to order.

## Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Dinner and Devotion
Wednesday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Dinner and Devotion
Sunday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm	Festival of the Nativity
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Festival of Holy Innocents

## Communion at Huntersville Lutheran

We believe what God's Word says. God's Word clearly teaches that along with the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26, 28; Mark 14:22, 24; Luke 22:19-22). Communion is important to us at Huntersville Lutheran and we seek to honor the biblical view of communion. Before coming up for communion, all adults should ask themselves these questions:

1. Do you confess your sins and seek to turn away from the sins you confessed?
2. Do you recognize that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the only way sin is forgiven?
3. Do you recognize that in the Sacrament of Communion you receive Jesus' true body and blood along with the bread and the wine?
4. Do you believe that the Bible *IS* God's inspired Word and does not just contain some truths of God?
5. Do you believe that Huntersville Lutheran Church teaches only the truth of God based on His inspired Word? (A summary of these teachings is taught in Faithbuilders, a class that runs multiple times throughout the year.)

We ask that those who have not had the opportunity to understand our Scriptural confession and are unsure of the answers to the above questions would speak with the pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. It is our sincere desire to share in the blessings of the Lord's Supper with you according to the pattern Jesus himself has given in his Word.